



**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

August 10, 2015

**City Hall Kiva Forum
3939 N. Drinkwater Blvd
Scottsdale, AZ 85251**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Bob Fox, Chair (telephonic)
James Campbell, Vice-Chair
Andrew Song, Commissioner
Laurie Coe, Commissioner
Richoh Danielson, Commissioner
Ragan Grossman, Commissioner

STAFF: Sharon Cini

GUESTS: Erica Alexander
Keiko Conn
Richard Tutman
Albert Lin
Karen Marchetti
Haidee Liza Zinerzlikar
Patricia Naovararyez Carstens

CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL

Vice-Chair Campbell called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Members were present as indicated above

1. Approval of minutes from the June 8, 2015 meeting

Commissioner Coe noted that although she may or may not have mentioned it during the meeting, she was in attendance at the North Scottsdale Community Church LGBT

issues event. Commissioner Grossman was not in attendance as was noted. Commissioner Coe and Commissioner Song were also in attendance at the Positively Powerful Women event.

COMMISSIONER COE MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 8, 2015 HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER SONG SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0).

2. Public Comment

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

3. Community diversity partner presentation and discussion - East Valley NAACP

Erica Alexander from the East Valley NAACP gave a presentation discussing the differences between the East Valley, Phoenix, and Maricopa branches of the NAACP, the NAACP's history, mission, vision statement, and organization objectives. She explained the organization's programs and services and their relationship with local law enforcement. The legal redress committee is the most important because they assist with the legal process when people feel their rights have been violated.

Commission members were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Cini confirmed that the City is a community diversity partner with the NAACP. Discussion ensued regarding diversity related films and education and the NAACP's legal services statistics. Ms. Alexander stressed that while the majority of the local NAACP members are black, the organization is focused on eliminating prejudices towards all groups and will advocate for anyone.

Ms. Alexander invited Commission members to attend the gala on October 3, 2015 and the multicultural education conference on September 12, 2015.

4. Presentation and discussion from Arizona Asian American Association (AAAA)

Albert Lin discussed the Asian American festival scheduled for December 5th and 6th, 2015 in the Civic Center Mall area.

Richard Tutman, festival chair, further elaborated on the planned festivities and the Arizona Asian American Association's desire to have a presence in Scottsdale and the need for support from the community.

Keiko Conn, Haidee Liza Zinerzlikar, and Patricia Naovararyez Carstens talked about the expected attendance at the festival, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

Commission members were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Lin emphasized collaboration and engagement between the 14 different organizations involved with the festival and the avenue of culture representing the different nations that will be part of the festival. He appealed to the Commission to assist in spreading the word to citizens about the festival and in helping to raise funds so the festival can be improved each

year. Mr. Tutman said that the organization has been in contact with businesses in Scottsdale to generate financial donations. He noted that it is anticipated that several visiting dignitaries will be present for the festival, which will draw attendees.

Ms. Cini said she will agendize a discussion about criteria for supporting a new community group for the September meeting.

5. Discussion regarding resignation of Lonny Ruben and recommendations to staff liaison regarding available seat for a new commissioner

Ms. Cini noted that Lonny Ruben resigned his position on the Human Relations Commission because he moved to California. She asked Commissioners to send recommendations for new members to Kelly Kuester at (480) 312-7977.

6. Presentation, discussion and recommendation to staff liaison regarding community education/Civil Dialogue event in October in conjunction with the Civic Center Library

Ms. Cini discussed the origination of her interest in sponsoring an event focusing on conflict resolution as part of the Civil Dialogue Series in collaboration with the Civic Center Library. Ms. Cini was approached by Karen Marchetti with an idea of collaboration to offer a free screening of the film "Beyond Right and Wrong; Stories of Justice and Forgiveness" followed by discussion to include one of the film's creators Jo Berry who is the daughter of Sir Anthony Berry, killed by the IRA in the bombing of the Grand Hotel in Brighton in 1984. The film depicts victims and perpetrators of the Rwandan genocide, the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, and the troubles in Northern Ireland. The event is scheduled for October 1, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Civic Center Library.

Karen Marchetti discussed her background as a peace building volunteer and how she became involved with the film and with Jo Berry. She explained that the basis for the film began when terrorist Dr. Patrick McGee was released from his eight lifetime sentence after only 14 years due to the peace process in Ireland and Ms. Berry asked to meet with him. Their discussion led to Ms. Berry and Mr. McGee working together in public forums speaking about conflict resolution. The film is available for streaming at beyondrightandwrong.com

Brief discussion ensued regarding the Commission endorsing the event and using Civil Dialogue funds.

COMMISSIONER COE MOVED TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY EDUCATION/CIVIL DIALOGUE EVENT IN OCTOBER IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY AS A CIVIL DIALOGUE SERIES WITH FURTHER DISCUSSION ABOUT HOW IT WILL BE FACILITATED AND RAISING A STIPEND. COMMISSIONER SONG SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0).

7. Presentation, discussion and recommendations to staff liaison regarding the UNITY Pledge activities/outreach and possible Civil Dialogue

Ms. Cini said that outreach for the UNITY Pledge is ongoing and a final report on those participating will be available by the end of August, at which time a report will be

prepared for City Council. The UNITY Pledge information went out in utility bills and can be further promoted by a word of mouth campaign. It is important to continue reaching out to Scottsdale Leadership, Wounded Warriors, and Scottsdale Community College asking for their support. Ms. Cini noted that private organizations are doing their own outreach and are identifying themselves as private and not attaching to the City of Scottsdale.

8. Staff updates regarding upcoming diversity events and activities

Ms. Cini announced that she will be scheduling discussion on the September agenda about the diversity inclusion framework. Preliminary goals to be implemented over the next three years include: To become a diverse and inclusive organization; to be skilled at working inclusively and respectfully; and to demonstrate the city's commitment to serve our community's diverse needs.

Ms. Cini noted that discussion about the T.R.E.A.D. hike as a community diversity event will be agendaized for September. She recommended that for planning purposes the event be moved to either November or December.

The Mayor's Committee on Employment to People with Disabilities is asking for referrals of students who might qualify as scholarship recipients and people who are eligible to receive various awards.

Ms. Cini announced that the City, in collaboration with the Phoenix Indian Center, brought 80 Native American students to City offices on July 30th as part of their college and career exploration event.

9. Report from the Chair

Chair Fox commented that recent national news highlighted that three to four years ago surveys showed that only 20 to 25 percent of Americans thought there was a racism problem in America and the most recent surveys show that 52 percent feel there is a racism problem in America.

Chair Fox opined that it is important to start thinking about how mentally ill people are treated and the mental illness care system.

Chair Fox noted that he and his wife have made the decision to permanently relocate to Santa Fe. He will be able to finish out his term with the HRC and will continue volunteering in his new location.

10. Commissioner Items

Commissioner Song said that on June 20th he and Commissioner Grossman attended the Philippine Independence Day event. On July 20th he met with the Asian Chamber and discussed how they could collaborate with the HRC. He noted that the Chinese community is holding several events to mark the 70th anniversary of the U.S. dropping the bomb on Hiroshima. He extended an invitation to the Commission members to attend the Korean Independence Day Celebration at the Tempe Center for the Arts on August 14, 2015 beginning at 6:00 p.m. He noted that Governor Ducey signed a proclamation making August 15th Korean Independence Day.

Commissioner Campbell noted that he attended the Philippine Independence Day event and the Asian Pacific Community Action meeting. He asked that the January Civil Dialogue Series be placed on the September agenda for discussion.

11. Discussion regarding the draft agenda for the next meeting, and dates, times and topics for upcoming meetings

- Criteria for supporting new community groups
- Diversity inclusion framework
- T.R.E.A.D. Hike
- January Civil Dialogue Series

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz